

## CLAIMS

1. An electronic access control device,  
comprising:

- 5 (a) a movable locking member;
- (b) a latch member movable between an open position and a locked position, said latch member in said locked position interfering with movement of said locking member;
- 10 (c) a solenoid operable to control said latch member and connected to a power supply;
- (d) a movement detector that generates a first signal in response to movement of said locking member;
- 15 (e) a key detector that generates a second signal in response to detecting a key; and
- (f) said power supply directing current in said solenoid in one direction to increase resistance to movement of said locking member in response to said first signal,
- 20 and said power supply directing current in said solenoid in an opposite direction to decrease resistance to movement of said locking member in response to said second signal.
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2. The electronic access control device of claim 1, further including a releasing mechanism to move said latch member to said open position when current

30 flows in said solenoid in response to said second signal.

3. The electronic access control device of claim 2 wherein said releasing mechanism is a spring.

4. The electronic access control device of claim 1, further including an anti-releasing mechanism that urges said latch member toward said locked position.

5 5. The electronic access control device of claim 4 wherein said anti-releasing mechanism is a spring.

10 6. The electronic access control device of claim 4, further including a releasing mechanism to move said latch member to said open position when current flows in said solenoid in response to said second signal.

15 7. The electronic access control device of claim 1 wherein said locking member, said latch member, said solenoid, and said power supply are housed in an enclosure comprised of at least two parts, said two parts being matingly engageable with one another.

20 8. The electronic access control device of claim 1, further comprising a key management system wherein said first key detected by said key detector becomes a master key.

25 9. The electronic access control device of claim 8 wherein said key management system stores a plurality of authorized key codes, and said key management system adds another key code to said authorized key codes in response to receiving from said  
30 key detector a signal corresponding to said master key and another signal corresponding to another key.

10. An electronic access control device, comprising:  
35 (a) a movable locking member;  
(b) a locking mechanism operable to control said locking member;

- 5 (c) a movement detector that generates a first condition in response to movement of said locking member;
- (d) a key detector that generates a second condition in response to detecting a key; and
- 10 (e) said locking mechanism increasing resistance to movement of said locking member in response to said first condition, and said locking mechanism decreasing resistance to movement of said locking member in response to said second condition.

15 11. The electronic access control device of claim 10, further including an anti-releasing mechanism operable with said locking mechanism to increase resistance to movement of said locking member.

20 12. The electronic access control device of claim 10 wherein said locking mechanism includes a solenoid.

25 13. The electronic access control device of claim 10 wherein said locking member and said locking mechanism are housed in an enclosure comprised of at least two parts, said two parts being matingly engageable with one another.

30 14. The electronic access control device of claim 10, further comprising a key management system wherein said first key detected by said key detector becomes a master key.

35 15. The electronic access control device of claim 14 wherein said key management system stores a plurality of authorized key codes, and said key

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19. The electronic access control device of claim 16 wherein said actuating mechanism includes a locking mechanism.

20. The electronic access control device of claim 16 wherein said actuating mechanism sounds an alarm when said electronic access control device is accessed without first receiving an authorized key code.

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21. The electronic access control device of claim 16 wherein said actuating mechanism prevents use of an electrical device.

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22. The electronic access control device of claim 19 wherein said locking mechanism includes a solenoid and said computer system directs current through said solenoid in one direction in response to receiving an authorized key code, and directs current through said solenoid in an opposite direction in response to receiving a signal from a movement detector corresponding to movement of said locking mechanism.

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23. The electronic access control device of claim 16, wherein said control mechanism, said key detector, and said computer system are housed in an enclosure comprised of at least two parts, said two parts being matingly engageable with one another.

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24. The electronic access control device of claim 16 wherein said computer system adds a new key code to said plurality of authorized key codes in response to receiving from said key detector a signal corresponding to said master key and another signal corresponding to a new key.

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25. The electronic access control device of claim 16 wherein said computer system subtracts an old key code from said plurality of authorized key codes in response to receiving from said key detector a signal  
5 corresponding to an old key and a signal corresponding to said master key.

26. An electronic access control device,  
comprising:

- 10 (a) an enclosure comprised of at least a base member and a housing detachably matingly engageable with one another, said enclosure containing a locking mechanism to control a locking member having  
15 respective locked and open positions;
- (b) said base member having mounting members that attach said base member to a surface; and
- 20 (c) a catch mechanism cooperating with said housing and said base member that limits relative movement therebetween when said housing is matingly engaged with said base member to form said enclosure and said locking member is in a locked position.

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27. The electronic access control device of claim 26, further including a strike unit, and said enclosure defining one or more openings, each of said openings of said enclosure facing at least one of the  
30 surface and said strike unit when said locking member is received by said strike unit.

28. The electronic access control device of claim 26 wherein said locking mechanism includes a  
35 solenoid.

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29. The electronic access control device of claim 26 wherein said catch mechanism is a spring.

5 30. The electronic access control device of claim 26 wherein said locking member is arcuate.

10 31. The electronic access control device of claim 26 wherein said locking member in said locked position substantially surrounds a portion of said strike unit.

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